

APRIL 25, 2010

S. O. S. FROM EGYPT

(Continued from last issue)

We have three students presently taking classes in the Apostolic Bible College in Assiut. We need our own Bible school. Some of their expenses include tuition, books, living and travel expenses.

We have three retired pastors living with family members and receive a small pension. Rev. Sudki is in Mallawi. Rev. Ibraheem Ibraheem lives with his daughter in Alexandria. He laboured faithfully for over 50 years. Rev. Zachareeya founded the church in Weilly and served as pastor there for over 40 years. He is officially retired but is working faithfully wherever he can. Also we have 4 pastors widows who receive a small pension.

We have some building projects in progress. For years in Bahghura we worshipped in a narrow, drafty, inadequate rented building. The parsonage upstairs was like a barn, the roof a breeding ground for scorpions. A door finally opened - permission to build was granted. They built a more than adequate church and parsonage getting themselves deeply in debt.

The church in Tahta was in danger of collapsing. The congregation dwindled. When permission to rebuild was received they put a demolition crew to work and began to rebuild.

There is a nucleus of believers in a village near Sohag asking to come under our umbrella. In Asswan there is a group meeting together and they ask us to help them. In Hilwan, a group of believers will donate the land if we will come. Doors are open, miracles taking place ... it is time for action NOW!

Egypt is an important link in the future outreach of Global Partners to the countries in the Middle East. There are possibilities of reaching Kuwait, Oman, Jordan, Lebanon. Egyptian Christians are going to these countries seeking employment. Our pastors have a vision and a passion to venture forth for the Master. Hold Egypt up in prayer. Catch a vision - the vision of God. Remember He said, "Blessed be Egypt my people."

Part 2 of a paper presented by Doris Conley on Missions Day at Belleville, On.

Wesleyan/Standard G.E.M. Missions

P.O. Box 488 ~ Brockville, Ontario ~ K6V 5V7



Minutes with Missions

Ghana Egypt Mexico

March | April 2010

MARCH 7, 2010

Remembering Rev. Ibraheem

Rev. Ibraheem Hanna Soliman was my colleague in Christian ministry for almost 50 years. I recall when he came from Mallawi as a Bible student. After years of study and training he was assigned to his first pastorate. I watched him develop as a pastor. Later he married Lorees, a fine young lady from Assiut. He became an effective and powerful preacher and an excellent translator. He was assistant superintendent and then at the passing of Rev. Awad he became conference superintendent.

It was thrilling to see him serve in this capacity for 14 years. He was a good administrator and a man of determination and vision. New churches were launched in Shoubra el Khayma, 6th of October City and el Minya during his term of office. Also Pastor Aram of Deir el Barsha brought his congregation into the conference.

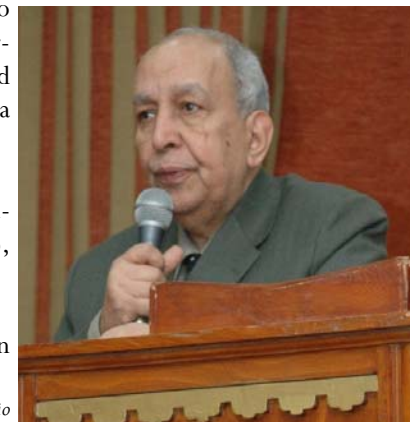
I have traveled many kms with Rev. Ibraheem, shared many pulpits and attended numerous conferences together. Rev. Ibraheem was not only a friend, he was a true brother in the family of God.

Rev. Ibraheem passed away January 26, 2010. The funeral was held in the Shoubra church on January 27 with 600 or more who came to honour and remember him. The service included 8 speakers with messages and tributes, interspersed with special songs from a variety of persons and denominations.

Our prayers are with his wife, Lorees and family; Emile (Suzy), Eman (Joseph), Issac (Sylvia), Andrew and three grandsons.

Prayer is urgently requested for the Egyptian Conference in March 2010.

E. R. Conley, Brockville, Ontario



MARCH 14, 2010

HAITI RESPONSE: SECOND PHASE

“Phase Two” has begun in The Wesleyan Church’s emergency response and rebuilding commitment in earthquake-ravaged Haiti. Initial appeals resulted in an outpouring of prayer, volunteerism, and sacrificial giving. Offerings through the Wesleyan Emergency Relief Fund total \$202,943 to date. The Board of General Superintendents expresses their appreciation for these efforts by local churches, districts, and individuals, and encourages continued faithfulness in long-term support of Haiti rebuilding needs.

Wesleyans in Haiti suffered historic damages, including the deaths of family members and total destruction of several churches and schools. Among those killed were a church member and his daughter, two daughters of one of our pastors, the son of a Wesleyan Men president, and the mother of a district superintendent. Thankfully, school wasn’t in session at the time of the quake. Otherwise, the loss of life could have been even greater, since enrollment was over 1600 students in Port-au-Prince area Wesleyan schools.

Global Partners missionary personnel, led by Caribe Atlantic Area Director Dan Irvine, responded quickly when the earthquake hit. Triage centers were set up, both in Port-au-Prince and in the Wesleyan Hospital on the nearby island of La Gonave. Medical teams and relief supplies were transported to and from the mainland. Evacuation arrangements were made for work team volunteers in Haiti at the time of the quake.

At least ten Wesleyan churches and a similar number of large school buildings were destroyed and dozens more were damaged. Global Partners, the Church's missions department, is urging North America congregations to partner with affected Haitian congregations in raising funds for rebuilding.

Many will also want to support World Hope International's disaster response strategy with donations and volunteers. WHI announced that it will be concentrating its humanitarian relief and recovery efforts in ten communities in the quake-affected area. Eight Wesleyan churches are located in these communities that include:

- Jacmel, Petit-Goâve, Gressier, Léogân, Carrefour, Martissant, Cite Soleil, Canape Vert Tuergeau, Carrefour Feuille, Delmas

From The Wesleyan Church Communications

APRIL 18, 2010

Dear Friends

What a privilege and a blessing to be writing to you today as the new Executive Director of World Hope Canada (WHC). I am very excited to be part of the great work that World Hope Canada has been involved in around the world.

At the time of this writing, the catastrophe in Haiti continues to unfold as aid continues to pour into the country. For those who have survived this major disaster, it will take a great deal of support to help individuals and the nation of Haiti to rebuild and go on. Thank you for your gifts to WHC on behalf of the Haitian community. We look forward to supporting Haiti as they rebuild their devastated country.

I thought you may be interested in knowing a little about my background. I am originally from Nova Scotia and began my journey with Christ back in 1983 with the assistance of Rev. Stewart Steeves and Grace Wesleyan Church in Halifax. I have been married to my wonderful husband, Sheldon, for 25 years. We have three grown children, one grandchild and I love being a grandmother!

I have spent the last seven plus years as the Director of Community Services with The Salvation Army in Kemptville, ON. Also, Sheldon and I were missionaries in D. R. Congo (then Zaire) between 1986 and 1990. While we have not lived in Africa since 1990, we continue to be involved in God’s work through development projects and community capacity building.

If you would like to know more about the work of World Hope Canada and how you can be involved in this life changing ministry, I am available to speak at your special event or church service. I look forward to meeting you in the near future at your church, church camp or a special event. In the meantime, I would request your prayer support for our work, our teams and for those we serve.

*In His Strength and for His glory,
Stephanie Gilmer*

APRIL 11, 2010

MEXICO MISSIONS

This is a pilot project in Vincente Gurrero in partnership with South Gate Wesleyan Church, Kemptonville, Ontario. The South Gate church has sent four missions teams to Vincente Gurrero. The last team consisted of 8 people and they were under extreme weather conditions with torrential rains. The government requested that their church could be used as a shelter. The main building is 55 ft. x 78 ft. and will seat 200 people. There are 2 other constructed main buildings which house Sunday school rooms and another building for a Sunday school and office. The other smaller buildings contain a communication office and latrines.

A cement floor has been installed and the pulpit area has been completed with a working electrical system. They are ready to hold services. The buildings are located on a very large property, on a major road leading to the municipal recreation area. There is a lot of pedestrian and vehicular traffic going by.

The pastor, Octavio Valenzulo, is manager of the radio station and has had the opportunity of sending out sermons locally and to the indigenous people (destitute farmers come down from the mountains to work in the vegetable fields to earn food and lodging). Other Wesleyan pastors from the remote areas pass on sermons and messages in the language of the indigenous people so he has a tremendous opportunity to minister to many.

During the last mission trip, the rain was so intense that the three bridges were washed out and the team was in jeopardy of being trapped. Eventually the team was taken across the river bank in big trucks. While the team was in this area they worked on houses that had been damaged by the rain.

The acquisition of materials was difficult because due to the road conditions they could not access the outlets. What did they do? They did the jobs they could do with the materials that they could acquire so their work was according to the Lord's planning and not what they had originally set out to do.

This is the 141st Wesleyan church in Mexico. The Wesleyan Church in Mexico is celebrating 90 years (founded originally by the Pilgrim Holiness).

David Williams, North Gower, On.

MARCH 21, 2010

NIGER NEWS



Today we received a quiet plea for prayer for Niger! I'm reminded of the "growing" darkness referred to often in the Lord of the Rings novel when referring to the dark influence of Sauron on the world. Through obedience, by offering a cup of cold water in Jesus' name and in the face of stiff opposition, there is incredible work being done with our national partner in Niger. However, as people begin to understand what motivates WHC's work, it seems that the opposition grows.

Overall, the work has been incredibly well received and people are excited! Clean drinking water, medical needs and food are all being provided in times of failed crops and persistent drought in a region of the world where water is abundant . . . beneath the surface of tons of sand and rock. People who are willing to accept our help are changed forever as they observe those offering help. Yet, the WHC workers face growing persecution.

People come from near and far to talk with our national partner about what motivates him to help them. They see that he is different and they want what he has. This brings more opposition.

In Niger in particular, we have seen our Lord do miraculous things this past year. A child was refused treatment at the local hospital because there was nothing they could do, so we gave him Tylenol and candy and lifted him up in prayer, expecting that he wouldn't make it - only to see him taking food and interacting the very next day. Did we do anything? Well, we prayed! That is what we are asking you to do now for our national partner and our Canadian liaison in Niger. Please pray! Please lift them up for protection from the opposition, strength to do the work they are called to do, confidence that they are doing what they are called to do and encouragement that they do not labour in vain.

From World Hope Canada 2010

	<p>Ladies' Mission Day Saturday, April 24, 2010 9:30 a.m. Milliken Wesleyan Church 3 Clayton Drive, Markham, On L3R 8N3 905-475-3579</p>	
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MARCH 28, 2010

REV. JOE OCRAN'S REPORT
GHANA DISTRICT CONFERENCE - NOVEMBER 27, 28, 2009

On behalf of the District Board of Administration, my wife Jemima, and myself, we wish to say a big "AKWAABA" (*Welcome*) to all our guests and our resident missionary couple, Rev. Darrell and Debbie Lamos.

Two years ago when we came together for our maiden District Conference, we indicated that our target as a newly created district was to see progress made or some achievement in three key areas:

- 1) Self Governing
- 2) Self Supporting
- 3) Self Propagating

There is a steady growth in the number of people being trained in Theological Seminaries in Ghana. One of our men recently graduated from Trinity Theological Seminary with a B.Th. I am happy to announce that tomorrow, God willing, we are going to ordain him. We have two men pursuing studies at Trinity and a man in his final year at Maranatha University College, Sowutuom, Accra. Just a few days ago, the church started service training for our pastors. After completing a set of six courses, pastors will be issued with a district license which will be recognized by the Wesleyan Standard Church.

The area we have done well in is self propagating. Since two years ago, our church has grown by over one thousand members. We have been especially successful in the Northern Region where our Jesus Film showings have made tremendous impact. Currently we have six preaching points which are being developed into full established church status. Our concern now is for trained leadership to man the various churches that are springing up all over.

The South of Ghana needs to catch up to our Northern zone in terms of planting new churches. Our plan of establishing two districts in Ghana and becoming a truly national church by 2010 will not be achieved unless we accelerated our pace of evangelism and church planting in the south. We are looking at growth in two areas; first, encouraging as many as possible to accept Christ as Saviour and Lord and assimilating them into the church. Second, even more urgent, is our ability to nurture such disciples into maturity so they can be useful and productive members in God's Kingdom.

(Continued on April 4, 2010)

APRIL 4, 2010

Continued from March 28, 2010

ARISE AND BUILD

As we look at Nehemiah and the troubles he encountered in his desire to rebuild the broken down walls of Jerusalem, we can take consolation in the fact that with focused determination and God on our side, we can overcome all obstacles in our way. To achieve our goals however, we need to plan strategically and pray fervently that God will direct our steps and give us His blessings. We need to determine to work hard and sacrificially. Our church, and indeed the church in Ghana, needs to have our hearts tuned to God's heart to hear His heartbeat about what He is already doing among us, especially among people of other religions and to join Him in building His church and Kingdom. Even as we tune our heart to God, we need also to extend a helping hand of fellowship to our communities and nation. Our faith in God must always be defined by our service to mankind. We cannot love God and refuse to engage with the people God loves. As a wise preacher once said "Faith and action must work together."

As a strong holiness church, we need to arise to the challenge of building a church that takes seriously the responsibility of being the 'salt and light' of our world. Our moral and ethical values and lifestyle must not be compromised under any circumstance. We need to help build a nation whose only God is the Lord. A nation that is in sync with God in upholding human dignity and respect, where indiscipline and moral decadence will be a thing of the past. We need to build a church whose members are alive to their responsibilities and will make the right sacrifices to see our church move forward in the right direction.

As we look into the future, from now to the next five years, we plan to plant a church in each regional capital starting with reviving our Tema Community 9 church and starting a new work in the Ashaiman area in 2010. Our prayer is that by the time we meet again in 2011 for our next District Conference we would be able to present at least two districts in Ghana.

(The above are selections from a report presented by Rev. Joe Ocran, Ghana District Superintendent at the 2nd Annual Conference of the Ghana District)